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Confessions Denied in Oslo Trial

By BARNABY J. FEDER

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OSLO, Feb. 26 — A former Norwegian diplomat accused of spying for the Soviet Union and Iraq asserted today that the confessions disclosed Monday by the State Prosecutor at the opening of his trial here were false.

Speaking for the first time in an outline of his view of the charges against him, the former diplomat, Arne Treholt, described the first days after his arrest 13 months ago as a "Kafkaesque" nightmare of endless questioning and isolation that led him to make up numerous responses.

"I felt that the world had collapsed under me," Mr. Treholt told the seven judges. "Sadness, desperation, pain and depression affected my condition during the first weeks of questioning at the Oslo police station."

The tall, square-featured Mr. Treholt, who was head of the Foreign Ministry's press office, is accused of having passed secret NATO and Norwegian materials to the Soviet Union for 10 years and to Iraq for two years.

He arrived at the court this morning in a neat, gray three-piece suit with three large folders and a thick sheaf of additional notes, and launched into his defense with determination.

Mr. Treholt first took up what the police called an "archive" of sensitive information found at his house. Only 45 of the 832 documents and collections of notes could have any relevance to the charges, he asserted.

At one point the former diplomat noted that 80 of the documents marked "confidential" were actually publications of *The Economist*, freely available to subscribers to the British magazine. Thirty-four others were notes from a regional development body taken in 1973 by his father, a retired politician, he said.

Turning to materials that would have

been of more interest to the Russians, he said that sensitive information in notes he took at the National Defense College in 1982 and 1983 was described as such by the school and that he had never distributed it.

Mr. Treholt also challenged the prosecution's charge that he had met with agents of the Soviet K.G.B. 120 times since he was first invited as a journalist to a cocktail party at the Soviet Embassy here in 1967. That number was "pulled entirely out of thin air," he said. He admitted to having had lunch 59 times over 15 years with Soviet officials whom the police have named as K.G.B. agents.

"To have lunch with a Soviet is not the same as practicing espionage," he said, describing frequent contacts with all sorts of embassy staff members as normal diplomatic activity.

The Government's estimate of 120 meetings was based on diaries, seven of which are missing. When asked what had happened to them, Mr. Treholt said, "That's a mystery to me too."